



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/770,097

02/02/2004

Todd W. Pastrick

DON01 P-1138

9272

28101

7590

12/16/2004

VAN DYKE, GARDNER, LINN AND BURKHART, LLP

2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE, S.E.

P.O. BOX 888695

GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49588-8695

EXAMINER

ZEADE, BERTRAND

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9dx

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/770,097	Applicant(s) PASTRICK ET AL.	
	Examiner Bertrand Zeade	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-23, 25-47, 49-69 and 71-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Farrell et al. (U.S.5624176).

O'Farrell ('176) discloses an illuminated power tilt exterior mirror for vehicle having:

Regarding claim 1 as shown in (figs. 1-8), an exterior mirror assembly (10), the exterior mirror assembly (10) including a first portion (14) adapted for mounting to a vehicle (12), a second portion (16), and a reflective element (20). A reflective element (20) support member supporting the reflective element (20), the reflective element support member mounting to an actuator or a positioning device (22) operable to adjust the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20), when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12). The actuator or positioning device (22) disposed at the second portion. As shown in (fig. 8), a turn signal indicator (not numbered), the turn signal indicator disposed adjacent to and separate from the reflective element (20), the turn signal indicator emitting a light beam at least generally laterally and rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12) and when the turn signal indicator is actuated. The turn signal

Art Unit: 2875

indicator adjusting in tandem with the reflective element (20) upon adjustment of the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20). As shown in (fig. 2), the light beam substantially unobservable by the driver of the vehicle (12), and wherein the light beam does not pass through the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 2 as shown in (figs. 8), the turn signal indicator (not numbered) comprises a portion forming an apex.

Regarding claim 3 as shown in (figs. 3), the apex is located at or near an outboard region of the second portion.

Regarding claim 4 as shown in (figs. 3) the signal indicator comprises a generally triangular shaped portion.

Regarding claim 5 as shown in (figs. 2-4), the turn signal indicator includes an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14) is mounted to a vehicle (12). the reflective element (20) having an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the outer surface of the turn signal indicator being generally contiguous with the outer surface of the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 6 as shown in (figs. 1), the turn signal indicator comprises a light conduiting member.

Regarding claim 7 as shown in (figs. 1), the turn signal indicator further comprising a light source (28), the light source (28) directing light into the conduiting member.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 8 as shown in (figs. 1,3), the light conduiting member includes a light input portion and a surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14) is mounted to a vehicle (12). The light conducting member (not numbered) being configured to direct light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 9 as shown in (figs. 1,3), the light conduiting member includes a plurality of internal reflective (20) surfaces for directing light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 10 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a portion with a stepped configuration to thereby form the internal reflective (20) surfaces.

Regarding claim 11 as shown in (figs. 2-3), the rearwardly facing surface is generally planar.

Regarding claim 12 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element (20) has an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14) is mounted to a vehicle (12). The rearwardly facing surface of the light (28) conduiting member being generally co-planar with the outer surface of the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 13 as shown in (figs. 4), the rearwardly facing surface of the light conduiting member forms a generally triangular shaped turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 14 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support supports the light conducting member.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 15 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support includes a member (22) positioned between the light conduiting member and the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 16 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the support member includes adjacent recesses, a first of the recesses having the reflective element(20) positioned therein, and a second of the recesses having the light conduiting member positioned therein.

Regarding claim 17 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a light input portion and a rearwardly facing surface forming the turn signal indicator (22), the light conduiting member being configured to direct light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 18 as shown in (fig. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a plurality of internal reflective surfaces (not numbered) for directing light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 19 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface forms a triangular-shaped turn signal indicator (22).

Regarding claim 20 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface is a substantially continuous surface.

Regarding claim 21 the indicator includes a light source (28), the light source chosen from an incandescent source, a fluorescent source, and a light emitting diode.

Regarding claim 22 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the second portion is movably connected to the first portion.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 23 as shown in (figs. 1,8), second portion is movably connected to the first portion by a connection chosen from at least one of a break-away connection or switches and a power-fold connection.

Regarding claim 25 as shown in (figs. 4), the turn signal indicator (24) is disposed in the second portion of the exterior mirror assembly (16/14) at a location generally laterally outboard of an edge portion of the reflective element (20), the edge portion of the reflective element (20) being closer to the side of the vehicle (10) to which the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted than the outboard location of the turn signal indicator (22).

Regarding claim 26 as shown in (figs. 1, 4), an exterior mirror assembly, the exterior mirror assembly (16/14) comprising a first portion adapted for mounting to a vehicle (12), a second portion, and a reflective element (20). A reflective element support member (18) supporting the reflective element (20), the reflective element (20) support member mounting to an actuator or positioning device (22) operable to adjust the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20) when the exterior mirror assembly is mounted to a vehicle (12), the actuator (22) disposed at the second portion. A turn signal indicator (24), the turn signal indicator disposed adjacent to and separate from the reflective element (20). The turn signal indicator (24) emitting a light beam at least generally laterally and rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12) and when the turn signal indicator (24) is actuated. The turn signal indicator (24) adjusting in tandem with the reflective element (20) upon adjustment of the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20). The

Art Unit: 2875

light beam substantially unobservable by the driver of the vehicle (12), wherein the light beam does not pass through the reflective element (20), and wherein the turn signal indicator (24) comprise a generally triangular shaped turn signal indicator (24).

Regarding claim 27 as shown in (figs. 1, 4), triangular-shaped turn signal indicator includes an apex, the apex being located at or near an outboard region of the second portion.

Regarding claim 28 as shown in (figs. 1, 4), the turn signal indicator (24) is disposed in the second portion of the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) at a location generally laterally outboard of an edge portion of the reflective element (20), the edge portion of the reflective element (20) being closer to the side of the vehicle (12) to which the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted than the outboard location of the turn signal indicator (24/28).

Regarding claim 29 as shown in (figs. 2-4), the turn signal indicator includes an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle when said mirror assembly is mounted to a vehicle (12), the reflective element (20) having an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the outer surface of said turn signal indicator being generally contiguous with the outer surface of the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 30 as shown in (figs. 1), the turn signal indicator comprises a light conduiting member.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 31 as shown in (figs. 1), the turn signal indicator further comprises a light source (28), the light source (28)b directing light into the conduiting member.

Regarding claim 32 as shown in (figs. 1-3), light conduiting member includes a light input portion and a surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when said mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the light conduiting member being configured to direct light (28) from said light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 33 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conducting member includes a plurality of internal reflective (20) surfaces for directing light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 34 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a portion with a stepped configuration to thereby form the internal reflective surfaces.

Regarding claim 35 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element (20) has an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly 14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the rearwardly facing surface of the light conduiting member being generally co-planar with the outer surface of the reflective element.

Regarding claim 37 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface is generally planar.

Regarding claim 38 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element (20) supports the light conduiting member.

Regarding claim 39 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support includes a member (22) positioned between the light conduiting member and the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 40 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the support member includes adjacent recesses, a first of said recesses having the reflective element (20) positioned therein, and a second of the recesses having the light conduiting member positioned therein.

Regarding claim 41 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a light input portion and a rearwardly facing surface forming said turn signal indicator, the light conduiting member being configured to direct light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 42 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a plurality of internal reflective (20) surfaces for directing light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 43 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface forms the triangular-shaped turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 44 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface is a substantially continuous surface.

Regarding claim 45 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator includes a light source (28), the light source chosen from an incandescent source, a fluorescent source, and a light emitting diode.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 46 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the second portion is movably connected to the first portion.

Regarding claim 47 as shown in (figs. 8), the second portion is movably connected to the first portion by a connection chosen from at least one of a break-away or actuator (22) connection and a power-fold connection.

Regarding claim 49 as shown in (figs. 1-8), an exterior mirror assembly (14/16), the exterior mirror assembly comprising a first portion adapted for mounting to a vehicle (12), a second portion, and a reflective element (20). A reflective element support member or housing (18) supporting the reflective element (20). The reflective element support member mounting to an actuator (22) operable to adjust the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20) when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the actuator or positioning device is disposed at the second portion, a turn signal indicator (24/28), the turn signal indicator disposed adjacent to and separate from the reflective element (20), the turn signal indicator (24/28) emitting a light beam at least generally laterally and rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12) and when the turn signal indicator is actuated. The turn signal indicator (24/28) adjusting in tandem with the reflective element (20) upon adjustment of the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20). The light beam substantially unobservable by the driver of the vehicle (12), wherein the light beam does not pass through the reflective element, and wherein the second portion is movably connected to first portion by a connection chosen from at least one of a break-away connection and a power-fold connection as shown in (fig. 8).

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 50 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator comprises a portion forming an apex.

Regarding claim 51 as shown in (figs. 1-3) the apex is located at or near an outboard region of the second portion.

Regarding claim 52 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator comprises a generally triangular shaped portion.

Regarding claim 53 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator includes an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the reflective element (20) having an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle, the outer surface of the turn signal indicator being generally contiguous with the outer surface of the reflective element(20).

Regarding claim 54 as shown in (figs. 8), the turn signal indicator comprises a light conduiting member.

Regarding claim 55 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator further comprising a light source (28), the light source directing light into the conduiting member.

Regarding claim 56 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a light input portion and a surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the light conduiting member being configured to direct light (28) from the light input portion to and out from said rearwardly facing surface.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 57 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conducting member includes a plurality of internal reflective surfaces for directing light (28) from the light input portion to and out from said rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 58 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a portion with a stepped configuration to thereby form the internal reflective surfaces.

Regarding claim 59 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface is generally planar.

Regarding claim 60 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element (28) has an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when said mirror assembly (14/16 is mounted to a vehicle (12). The rearwardly facing surface of the light conduiting member being generally co-planar with the outer surface of the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 61 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface of the light conduiting member forms a generally triangular shaped turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 62 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support supports the light conduiting member.

Regarding claim 63 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support includes a member (22) positioned between the light conduiting member and the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 64 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the support member (22) includes adjacent recesses, a first of the recesses having the reflective element (20) positioned therein, and a second of the recesses having the light conduiting member positioned therein.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 65 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a light input portion and a rearwardly facing surface forming the turn signal indicator (24/28), the light conduiting member being configured to direct light (28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 66 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member includes a plurality of internal reflective surfaces for directing light from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 67 as shown in (figs. 1-4), the rearwardly facing surface forms a triangular-shaped turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 68 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface is a substantially continuous surface.

Regarding claim 69 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator (24) includes a light source (28), the light source (28) chosen from an incandescent source, a fluorescent source, and a light emitting diode.

Regarding claim 71 as shown in (figs. 1-3,8), the turn signal indicator (24/28) is disposed in the second portion of the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) at a location generally laterally outboard of an edge portion of said reflective element (20), the edge portion of the reflective element (20) being closer to the side of the vehicle (12) to which the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted than the outboard location of the turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 72 as shown in (figs. 1-3), an exterior mirror assembly (14/16), the exterior mirror assembly comprising a first portion adapted for mounting to a vehicle

Art Unit: 2875

(12), a second portion, and a reflective element (20). A reflective element support member or h(18) supporting the reflective element (20), the reflective element support member mounting to an actuator or positioning device (22) operable to adjust the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20) when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12), the actuator (22) disposed at the second portion. A turn signal indicator or light (24/28), the turn signal indicator (24/28) disposed adjacent to and separate from the reflective element (20), the turn signal indicator emitting a light beam (P) at least generally laterally and rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12) and when the turn signal indicator is actuated. The turn signal indicator (24) adjusting in tandem with the reflective element (20) upon adjustment of the rearward field of view of the reflective element (20). The light beam (P) substantially unobservable by the driver of the vehicle (12), wherein the light beam does not pass through the reflective element (20), wherein the second portion is movably connected to the first portion by a connection chosen from at least one of a break-away connection and a power-fold connection as shown in (fig. 8), and wherein the turn signal indicator or light (24) is disposed in the second portion of the exterior mirror assembly (14/16), at a location generally laterally outboard of an edge portion of the reflective element (20), the edge portion of the reflective element (20) being closer to the side of the vehicle (12) to which the exterior mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted than the outboard location of the turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 73 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator comprises a portion forming an apex.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 74 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the apex is located at or near an outboard region of the second portion (P).

Regarding claim 75 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator comprises a generally triangular shaped portion (P).

Regarding claim 76 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator includes an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12). The reflective element (20) having an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly is mounted to a vehicle (12), the outer surface of the turn signal indicator being generally contiguous with the outer surface of the reflective element (20).

Regarding claim 77 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator comprises a light conduiting member (not numbered).

Regarding claim 78 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator further comprises a light source (24/28), the light source directing light into the conduiting member.

Regarding claim 79 as shown in (figs. 1-4), the light conduiting member (24) includes a light input portion and a surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (4/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12). The light conduiting member (not numbered) being configured to direct light (24/28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Art Unit: 2875

Regarding claim 80 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member (not numbered) includes a plurality of internal reflective surfaces for directing light (24/28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 81 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conduiting member (not numbered) includes a portion with a stepped configuration to thereby form the internal reflective surfaces.

Regarding claim 82 as shown in (figs. 1-4), the rearwardly facing surface (p) is generally planar.

Regarding claim 83 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element (20) has an outer surface facing rearwardly of the vehicle (12) when the mirror assembly (14/16) is mounted to a vehicle (12). The rearwardly facing surface of the light conduiting member being generally co-planar with the outer surface of the reflective element.

Regarding claim 84 as shown in (figs. 4), the rearwardly facing surface of the light conduiting member forms a generally triangular shaped turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 85 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element (20) support supports the light conduiting member.

Regarding claim 86 as shown in (figs. 1-3); the reflective element support includes a member positioned between said light conduiting member and said reflective element.

Regarding claim 87 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the support member includes adjacent recesses, a first of the recesses having the reflective element (20) positioned

Art Unit: 2875

therein, and a second of the recesses having said turn signal indicator positioned therein.

Regarding claim 88 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator comprises a light conducting member (not numbered), the light conducting member including a light (24/28) input portion and a rearwardly facing surface forming the turn signal indicator. The light conducting member being configured to direct light (24/28) from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface.

Regarding claim 89 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the light conducting member includes a plurality of internal reflective surfaces for directing light from the light input portion to and out from the rearwardly facing surface (P).

Regarding claim 90 as shown in (fig. 4), the rearwardly facing surface (p) forms a triangular-shaped turn signal indicator.

Regarding claim 91 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the rearwardly facing surface (P) is a substantially continuous surface.

Regarding claim 92 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the turn signal indicator includes a light source (24/28), the light source chosen from an incandescent source, a fluorescent source, and a light emitting diode.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 24, 48, 70, 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Farrell ('176) in view of Peterson et al. (U.S.3883732).

O'Farrell ('176) discloses the claimed invention except for a plastic backing plate.

Peterson teaches a plastic material mounted within the lamp housing.

Regarding claim 24 as shown in (fig. 2), the reflective element support member comprises a plastic backing plate.

Regarding claim 70 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support member (5) comprises a plastic backing plate (3).

Regarding claim 93 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support member (5) comprises a plastic backing plate (3).

Regarding claim 48 as shown in (figs. 1-3), the reflective element support member (5) comprises a plastic backing plate (3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the of the invention was made to use the plastic plate of Peterson for the device of O'Farrell ('176), since providing a plastic material enables the lamp to subdue the shock and bumps on the rough roads.

Art Unit: 2875

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bertrand Zeade whose telephone number is 571-272-2387. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bertrand Zeade
Examiner
Art Unit 2875


Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800